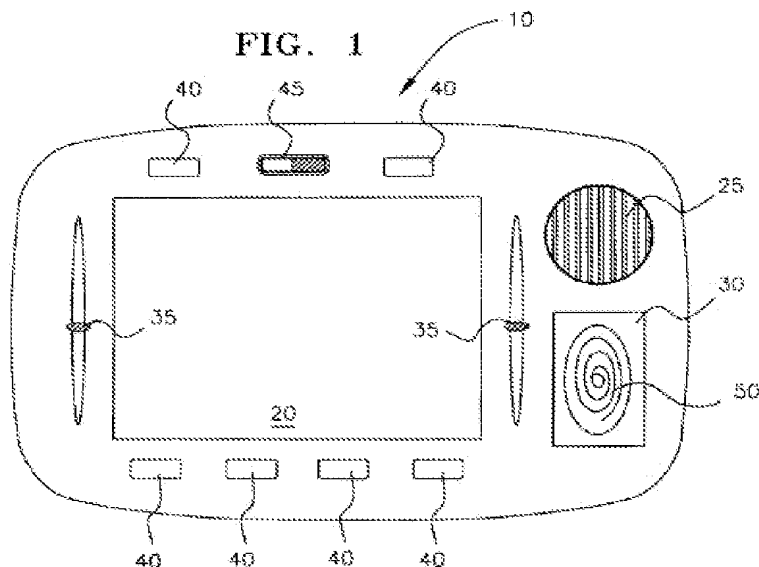


REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application 2001/0030644 by Allport that describes in part using bio-metric identification such as fingerprint recognition to enable users to log on to a system. In particular Fig. 1 of Allport (shown below) shows a controller 10 having a visual display area 20 and a fingerprint touch pad 30 that includes “a graphic or etching 50 representing a fingerprint may be present on the pad 30 to assist the user in properly orienting his or her finger for identification” (Allport, paragraph 0028, lines 7-9). Therefore, Allport requires that in order for the fingerprint pad 30 to be effective, the user must locate and orient his/her finger only according to the etching 50. Any other location or orientation would render the fingerprint pad 30 ineffective in fingerprint recognition, otherwise, the etching 50 would not be necessary.

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In contrast to Allport, the invention discloses a method and system for recognizing a signet pattern from a touch signal when a signet is placed anywhere and in any location on a touch sensitive surface. Furthermore, the signet pattern can be the shape of the signet itself or a pattern formed on the signet. More specifically, claim 1 as amended recites:

A method, comprising:

generating a touch signal by placing a signet **anywhere and in any orientation on a touch sensitive surface**, the touch signal representing a particular signet pattern, wherein the particular signet pattern is the shape of the signet itself or a pattern formed on the signet;
recognizing the particular signet pattern; and
performing an action associated with the particular signet pattern.

Applicants believe that claim 1 is patentably distinct from Allport and request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection thereof. Independent claims 8, 14, 18, and 19 have been amended to recite essentially the same limitations as claim 1 and are also believed to be allowable. Applicants believe that dependent claims 2-7, 9-13, and 15-17 are also patentably distinct from the cited reference for at least the same reasons as those recited above for the independent claims, upon which they ultimately depend.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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